1. (Currently Amended) Method for characterizing the state of a
   neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising

   ~~a.~~ i. determining the pattern of expression levels of at least
   6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 marker genes, wherein said marker
   genes comprise SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and
   SEQ ID NO: 477, in a biological sample from said subject,

   ~~b.~~ ii. comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in
   (i) with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression
   levels,

   ~~c.~~ iii. characterizing the state of said neoplastic disease in
   said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii).

2. Canceled.

~~3.~~ (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~Method~~
   ~~for detection, diagnosis, screening, monitoring, and/or prognosis~~
   ~~of a neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising~~

   ~~a. determining the pattern of expression levels of at least 1, 2,~~
   ~~3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 marker genes wherein said marker~~
   ~~genes comprise SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159,~~
   ~~and SEQ ID NO: 477, in biological samples from said subject,~~

   ~~b. comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in (i)~~
   ~~with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression levels,~~

   ~~c.~~ said characterizing comprises detecting, diagnosing,
   screening, monitoring, and/or prognosing said neoplastic disease
   in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii).

4. Canceled

5.   (Previously Presented) Method of claim 1 or 3, wherein said
method comprises multiple determinations of a pattern of expression
levels, at different points in time, thereby allowing to monitor
the development of said neoplastic disease in said subject.

6. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 1 or 3, wherein said method
comprises an estimation of the likelihood of success of a given
mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease in said subject.

7. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 1 or 3, wherein said method
comprises an assessment of whether or not the subject is expected
to respond to a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic
disease.

8.   (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6, wherein a predictive
algorithm is used.

9. (Original) Method of claim 8, wherein the predictive algorithm is a
Support Vector Machine.

10. - 15. Canceled

16.   (Previously Presented) Method of claims 1 or 3 further
comprising additional marker genes listed in Table 2.

17. Canceled

18.   (Previously Presented) Method of claims 1 or 3, wherein the
neoplastic disease is breast cancer.

19.   (Previously Presented) A kit comprising at least 6, 8, 10, 15,
20, 30, or 47 primer pairs and probes suitable for marker genes
comprised in a group of marker genes comprising SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ
ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477 and further
comprising additional markers genes wherein the additional marker
genes are listed in Table 2.

20. - 24. Canceled